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RESPONSE TO NOTICE

In response to the Notice, mailed January 17, 2002, the period for response to which is set to expire on February 17, 2002, with respect to the election of Group 1, claims 1-8 and 11, Applicants hereby elect the following species, without prejudice or disclaimer:

for claim 2, Applicants elect the species in which R is H and R' is CH₂CH₂SO₃Na⁺; and

for claim 8, Applicants elect the species in which R, R' and R'' are each CH_3 .

Applicants hereby indicate that claim 1 is generic to claims 2-8 and 11. Therefore, claims 2-8 and 11 should be allowable, provided that generic claim 1 is allowable.

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Serial Number: 09/424,181

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and prompt and favorable action on the merits is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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February 1, 2002